Claims

[0138]   What is claimed is:

1. In a communication device, a method for initiating a communication
with a destination party, comprising:

    detecting user activation of a speed-dial button corresponding to the des-

        tination party;

    responsive to the detected user activation, displaying at least two com-

        munication modes for the destination party;

    receiving user selection of one of the displayed communication modes;

        and

    initiating communication with the destination party, using the selected

        communication mode.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication device comprises
one selected from the group consisting of:

    a telephone;

    a cellular telephone;

    a pager;

    a personal digital assistant;

    a communicator;

8   a smart phone;

9   a computer; and

10   a handheld communication device.

1   3. The method of claim 1, wherein the selected communication mode

2   comprises one selected from the group consisting of:

3   voice telephony;

4   voice messaging;

5   text messaging;

6   email; and

7   paging.

1   4. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication device comprises a

2   display screen, the method further comprising, prior to detecting user activation

3   of a speed-dial button:

4   displaying at least one speed-dial button comprising a displayed repre-

5   sentation of a button;

6   and wherein detecting user activation of a speed-dial button comprises

7   detecting user activation of the displayed representation of a button.

1   5. The method of claim 4, wherein detecting user activation of a speed-

2   dial button comprises detecting user selection of the speed-dial button and user

3   initiation of a command signifying activation of the selected speed-dial button.

1   6. The method of claim 5, wherein detecting user selection of the speed-

2   dial button comprises:

3   highlighting a first speed-dial button;

4   detecting user input indicating a direction;

5   responsive to the detected user input, highlighting a second speed-dial

6   button, the second speed-dial button having a position with re-

7   spect to the first speed-dial button, the position corresponding

8   to the indicated direction.

1   7. The method of claim 6, wherein detecting user input indicating a direc-

2   tion comprises detecting user manipulation of a switch having at least two con-

3   tact points.

1   8. The method of claim 6, wherein detecting user input indicating a direc-

2   tion comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of:

3   detecting user manipulation of a switch;

4   detecting user manipulation of a dial;

5   detecting user manipulation of a jog/dial control;

6   detecting keyboard input;

7   detecting a button press;

8   detecting user manipulation of a three-way switch;

9   detecting user manipulation of a five-way switch.

1   9. The method of claim 8, wherein detecting user input indicating user

2   initiation of a command signifying activation comprises at least one selected

3   from the group consisting of:

4   detecting user manipulation of a switch;

5   detecting user manipulation of a dial;

6   detecting user manipulation of a jog/dial control;

7   detecting keyboard input;

8   detecting a button press;

9   detecting user manipulation of a three-way switch;

10   detecting user manipulation of a five-way switch.

1   10. The method of claim 4, wherein the communication device comprises

2   a display screen, and wherein detecting user activation of a speed-dial button

3   comprises detecting contact at an area of the display screen corresponding to the

4   speed-dial button.

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1   11. The method of claim 4, wherein the communication device comprises

2   a display screen, and wherein detecting user activation of a speed-dial button

3   comprises detecting a cursor position corresponding to an on-screen position of

4   the speed-dial button and user initiation of a command signifying activation of

5   the speed-dial button corresponding to the detected cursor position.

1   12. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication device comprises

2   a display screen, the method further comprising, prior to detecting user activa-

3   tion of a speed-dial button:

4   displaying a menu including at least one menu item representing a speed-

5   dial button;

6   and wherein detecting user activation of a speed-dial button comprises

7   detecting user activation of the displayed menu item representing a speed-dial

8   button.

1   13. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication device comprises

2   a display screen, the method further comprising, prior to detecting user activa-

3   tion of a speed-dial button:

4   displaying a scrollable list comprising at least one displayed speed-dial

5   button;

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6   and wherein detecting user activation of a speed-dial button comprises

7   detecting user activation of the displayed speed-dial button.

1   14. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting user activation of a speed-

2   dial button comprises detecting user activation of a physical button.

1   15. The method of claim 1, wherein the activated speed-dial button corre-

2   sponds to a first previously stored handle representing a first communication

3   mode for the destination party, and wherein displaying at least two communica-

4   tion modes for the destination party comprises:

5   retrieving at least a second previously stored handle representing a sec-

6   ond communication mode for the destination party correspond-

7   ing to the activated speed-dial button.

1   16. The method of claim 15, wherein each handle comprises at least one

2   selected from the group consisting of:

3   a telephone number;

4   a fax number;

5   an email address;

6   a pager number; and

7   an instant messaging identifier.

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1   17. The method of claim 1, wherein:

2   displaying at least two communication modes for the destination party

3   comprises displaying a menu comprising at least two items;

4   and wherein receiving user selection of one of the displayed communica-

5   tion modes comprises receiving user selection of a menu item.

1   18. In a communication device, a method for initiating a communication

2   with a destination party, comprising:

3   detecting user activation of a speed-dial button corresponding to a first

4   previously stored handle representing a first communication

5   mode for the destination party;

6   determining whether at least a second previously stored handle exists rep-

7   resenting a second communication mode for the destination

8   party;

9   responsive to a determination that least a second previously stored handle

10   exists:

11   displaying at least two communication modes for the destina-

12   tion party, each displayed communication mode cor-

13   responding to a handle for the destination party;

14   receiving user selection of one of the displayed communication

15   modes; and

16   initiating communication with the destination party, using the

17   selected communication mode; and

1   19. The method of claim 18, further comprising:

2   responsive to a determination that only one previously stored handle ex-

3   ists:

4   initiating communication with the destination party, using a

5   communication mode associated with the first previ-

6   ously stored handle.

1   20. In a communication device, a method for initiating a communication

2 with a destination party, comprising:

3   accepting user input activating a speed-dial button corresponding to a

4   first previously stored handle representing a first communica-

5   tion mode for the destination party;

6   determining whether the user input indicates a request that alternative

7   communication modes be displayed;

8   responsive to the user input indicating a request that alternative commu-

9   nication modes be displayed:

10   displaying at least two communication modes for the destina-

11   tion party, each displayed communication mode cor-

12   responding to a handle for the destination party;

13   receiving user selection of one of the displayed communication

14   modes; and

15   initiating communication with the destination party, using the

16   selected communication mode.

1   21. The method of claim 20, further comprising:

2   responsive to the user input indicating that a default communication

3   mode be used:

4   initiating communication with the destination party, using a de-

5   fault communication mode associated with the first

6   previously stored handle.

1   22. The method of claim 21, wherein determining whether the user input

2 indicates a request that alternative communication modes be displayed com-

3 prises determining whether the user has pressed a button momentarily or has

4 held a button down for at least a predetermined length of time.

1   23. The method of claim 21, wherein determining whether the user input

2 indicates a request that alternative communication modes be displayed com-

3   prises determining whether the user has pressed a first button or has pressed a

4   second button.

1   24.   The method of claim 21, wherein determining whether the user input

2   indicates a request that alternative communication modes be displayed com-

3   prises determining whether the user has pressed a button once or has pressed the

4   button twice within a predetermined length of time.

1   25.   In a telephone dialing application, a method for initiating a commu-

2   nication, comprising:

3   responsive to an activation command, displaying a pop-up menu com-

4   prising a plurality of entries corresponding to previously initi-

5   ated communications;

6   receiving input selecting one of the entries; and

7   responsive to the received input, initiating communication with a contact

8   corresponding to the selected entry.

1   26.   The method of claim 25, wherein the pop-up menu further comprises

2   at least one of:

3   a command for accessing a dial pad; and

4   a command for accessing a call log.

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1   27. The method of claim 25, wherein the pop-up menu further comprises

2 at least one entry corresponding to a received call.

1   28. The method of claim 25, wherein the pop-up menu further comprises

2 at least one entry corresponding to a missed call.

1   29. The method of claim 25, further comprising:

2 highlighting one of the entries in the pop-up menu;

3 receiving input for moving the highlight; and

4 responsive to the receiving input, highlighting another one of the entries;

5 and wherein receiving input selecting one of the entries comprises receiv-

6 ing input selecting the highlighted entry.

1   30. The method of claim 25, wherein the plurality of entries correspond-

2 ing to previously initiated communications comprise previously called telephone

3 numbers, and wherein initiating communication comprises dialing a telephone

4 number corresponding to the selected entry.

1   31. In a telephone dialing application, a method for initiating a commu-

2 nication, comprising:

3   responsive to an activation command, displaying a pop-up menu com-

4   prising a plurality of entries corresponding to previously initi-

5   ated communications;

6   receiving input selecting one of the entries;

7   displaying a sub-menu comprising alternate communication modes for

8   the selected entry;

9   receiving input selecting one of the alternate communication modes; and

10   responsive to the received input, initiating communication according to

11   the selected alternate communication mode.

1   32. The method of claim 31, wherein the plurality of entries correspond-

2 ing to previously initiated communications comprise previously called telephone

3 numbers.

1   33. A user interface for a communication device having a display screen,

2 the user interface comprising:

3   a plurality of on-screen buttons, each button assignable to one of a set of

4   functions; and

5   at least one configuration screen for assigning a button to a function;

6   wherein each button is activatable to perform the function to which it is

7   assigned; and

8 wherein the set of functions comprises a speed dial function and at least

9   one non-speed dial function.

1 34. The user interface of claim 33, wherein the at least one non-speed dial

2 function comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of:

3   launching an application;

4   initiating an email communication to a specified recipient;

5   initiating an SMS communication to a specified recipient; and

6   accessing a web page.

1 35. The user interface of claim 33, wherein the plurality of on-screen but-

2 tons are organized into a plurality of banks, each comprising at least one button,

3 and wherein the user interface further comprises controls for navigating from

4 bank to bank.

1 36. The user interface of claim 33, wherein the user interface is navigable

2 via a switch comprising at least two direction controls and an activation switch.

1 37. The user interface of claim 33, wherein the user interface is navigable

2 via a switch comprising at least four direction controls and an activation switch.

1   38.   The user interface of claim 33, wherein each button comprises a visual

2   indicator of the type of function associated with the button, wherein the visual

3   indicator comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of:

4   a color;

5   an icon;

6   a text label;

7   a pop-up label;

8   a shape; and

9   an outline.

1   39.   In a handheld communication device, a method for displaying pres-

2   ence information, comprising:

3   displaying an on-screen button for contacting an individual via a commu-

4   nication mechanism;

5   retrieving presence information for the individual; and

6   concurrently with displaying the on-screen button, displaying a presence

7   information indicator for the individual.

1   40.   The method of claim 39, wherein displaying the presence information

2   indicator comprises displaying the indicator within the on-screen button.

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1   41. The method of claim 39, wherein displaying the presence information

2   indicator comprises displaying the indicator adjacent to the on-screen button.

1   42. The method of claim 39, wherein displaying the presence information

2   indicator comprises displaying the on-screen button using a color representing

3   the presence information.

1   43. The method of claim 39, wherein displaying the presence information

2   indicator comprises displaying at least one selected from the group consisting of:

3   an icon;

4   a text label; and

5   a speed-dial button.

1   44. The method of claim 39, wherein retrieving the presence information

2   comprises determining whether the individual is available to receive a commu-

3   nication via the communication mechanism.

1   45. The method of claim 39, wherein retrieving the presence information

2   comprises determining whether the individual is online.

1   46. The method of claim 39, wherein retrieving the presence information

2   comprises determining whether the individual is on the phone.

1   47. The method of claim 39, wherein retrieving the presence information

2 comprises determining whether the individual has specified a presence state.

1   48. In a handheld communication device, a method for displaying pres-

2 ence information, comprising:

3   displaying a directory entry for an individual;

4   retrieving presence information for the individual; and

5   concurrently with displaying the directory entry, displaying a presence in-

6   formation indicator for the individual.

1   49. A computer program product for initiating a communication between

2 a communication device and a destination party, comprising:

3   a computer-readable medium; and

4   computer program code, encoded on the medium, for:

5   detecting user activation of a speed-dial button corresponding to

6   the destination party;

7   responsive to the detected user activation, displaying at least two

8   communication modes for the destination party;

9   receiving user selection of one of the displayed communication

10   modes; and

11   initiating communication with the destination party, using the se-

12   lected communication mode.

1   50.   A computer program product for initiating a communication from

2 within a telephone dialing application, comprising:

3   a computer-readable medium; and

4   computer program code, encoded on the medium, for:

5   responsive to an activation command, displaying a pop-up menu

6   comprising a plurality of entries corresponding to previ-

7   ously initiated communications;

8   receiving input selecting one of the entries; and

9   responsive to the received input, initiating communication with a

10   contact corresponding to the selected entry.

1   51. A communication device for communicating with a destination party,

2 comprising:

3   an input device, for detecting user activation of a speed-dial button corre-

4   sponding to the destination party;

5   a display, coupled to the input device, for, responsive to the detected user

6   activation, displaying at least two communication modes for the

7   destination party; and

8   a communication module, coupled to the input device, for initiating

9   communication with the destination party, using a selected

10   communication mode;

11   wherein the input device receives user selection of one of the displayed

12   communication modes.

1   52.   A communication device for initiating a communication from within

2   a telephone dialing application, comprising:

3   a display for, responsive to an activation command, displaying a pop-up

4   menu comprising a plurality of entries corresponding to previ-

5   ously initiated communications;

6   an input device, coupled to the display, for receiving input selecting one

7   of the entries; and

8   a communication module, coupled to the input device, for, responsive to

9   the received input, initiating communication with a contact

10   corresponding to the selected entry.

1   53.   A handheld communication device for displaying presence informa-

2   tion, comprising:

3   a display for displaying at least one of:

4   an on-screen button for contacting an individual via a communica-

5   tion mechanism; and

6   a directory entry for an individual; and

7   a presence retrieval module, coupled to the display, for retrieving pres-

8   ence information for the individual;

9   wherein, concurrently with displaying the on-screen button, the display

10   displays a presence information indicator for the individual.